

Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 /049 W

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R 141444Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

UNCLAS BEIRUT 10359

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, JO, LE, US

SUBJECT: PA/PR 895-4701 WFP/JORDAN TA 3050--JEAN LYKES

REF: STATE 186392 AND PREVIOUS

1. EMBOFF HAS REVIEWED QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL WITH WFP/BEIRUT,
WITH FOLLOWING RESULTS:

(A) BREAKDOWN OF STORAGE-CONNECTED CHARGES. LATEST INVOICE
DATED 5 JUNE INCLUDES THESE CHARGES (IN LEBANESE POUNDS):

--LOADING FLOUR UNDER SHIP'S TACKLE, 16,824.70
TRUCKING, AND UNLOADING AT TWO BEIRUT WAREHOUSES

--STORAGE AT TWO BEIRUT WAREHOUSES, ACTUAL 6,262.40
AND PROJECTED THROUGH TEN WEEKS

--INSURANCE, ACTUAL AND PROJECTED FOR 2-1/2 1,479.00
MONTHS

--PROJECTED COST OF LOADING FLOUR FROM WARE- 4,005.90
HOUSES TO TRUCKS FOR SHIPMENT TO JORDAN
(ACTUAL COST IN CASE OF PORTION ALREADY SHIPPED)

ONLY THE SECOND ITEM ABOVE (LL 6,262.40) IS STORAGE PER SE.
NOTE THAT FINAL COSTS WILL BE CONSIDERABLY BIGGER DUE TO PASSAGE
OF TIME SINCE INVOICE; WE EXPECT THAT STORAGE PER SE AND
INSURANCE WILL BE APPROX DOUBLE ABOVE FIGURES.

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(B) OTHER INCIDENTAL CHARGES. WFP/BEIRUT HAS SENT US ADDITIONAL

INVOICES FOR CHARGES ON WHICH REIMBURSEMENT IS EXPECTED. THESE INVOLVE LANDING CHARGES, CLEARING CHARGES, TAXI FARES, AND CLERK WAGES INCLUDINGG OVERTIME. IT IS DIFFICULT TO BREAK THESE DOWN BETWEEN FLOUR AND VEGOIL SENT TO JORDAN AND FLOUR STILL STORED IN BEIRUT. TOTAL IS LL 5,664.85.

(C) THREAT TO AUCTION BALANCE OF CARGO. ONE COMPANY IS DOING ALL RPT ALL TRANSPORT ON CARGO, NOT ONLY TRANSPORT TO JORDAN BUT ALSO STORAGE-CONNECTED TRUCKING ON ABOVE INVOICE. IT IS THIS COMPANY WHICH THREATENS TO AUCTION FOR UNPAID SERVICES, BIGGEST ITEM OF WHICH IS LL 16,824.70 NOTED ABOVE FOR TRUCKING TO BEIRUT WAREHOUSES. THREAT HAS NOT MATERIALIZED AND WOULD INVOLVE LENGTHHY COURT ACTION IF UNDERTAKEN. WFP/BEIRUT BELIEVES THREAT IS NOT SERIOUS PROVIDED MATTER IS SETTLED REASONABLY SOON.

(D) SUGGESTION THAT WFP/BEIRUT PAY UNDISPUTED CHARGES FOR TRANSPORT TO JORDAN ALREADY COMPLETED. ON BASIS PARA 2 REFTEL, EMBOFF ASKED IF WFP COULD PAY THE CHARGES FOR WHICH REIMBURSEMENT IS CERTAIN (I.E., STORAGE PER SE AND A CHARGE OF LL2,779.55 FOR PORTION OF FLOUR SHIPPED DIRECTLY FROM SHIP TO JORDAN) AS MEASURE TO HEAD OFF ANY AUCTION THREATS. WFP/BEIRUT REPLIED THAT TRANSPORTER WOULD PROBABLY NOT ACCEPT THIS, SINCE HIS LARGEST CHARGE IS ONE UNDER DISPUTE, AND THAT WFP/ROME WOULD ALSO BE RELUCTANT DIVIDE PAYMENT THIS WAY. WFP/BEIRUT LATER QUERIED ROME AND HAS JUST TOLD US THAT ROME DOES NOT ACCEPT SUCH DIVISION OF PAYMENT.

(E) CONDITION OF CARGO. WFP/BEIRUT HAS INSPECTED FLOUR AND IS SATISFIED IT IS STILL GOOD.

(F) TONNAGE FIGURES AND CHARGES FOR AID/W REVIEW. ASSUMPTIONS PARA 4 REFTEL ARE CORRECT, ALTHOUGH TONNAGE FIGURES VARY SOMEWHAT DEPENDING ON SOURCE. WFP/BEIRUT IS USING FIGURE OF 1,009.6 MT AS AMOUNT CURRENTLY IN BEIRUT STORAGE. AID/W SHOULD NOTE INCIDENTAL CHARGES PARA (B) ABOVE WHICH DIFFICULT TO BREAK DOWN. NOTE ALSO THAT NO RPT NO REIMBURSEMENT HAS YET BEEN MADE FOR ANY PART THIS SHIPMENT.

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